SOUTH VIET NAM *In struggle*

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FRONALI PHNOM-PENH
53 *Samdech Pann Phnom-Penh*
CAMBODIA

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DAZIMINA HANOI
19 *Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN*
and other South Viet Nam NFL
Missions in foreign countries

Let more victories blossom to make spring even more beautiful !

BY tradition, Tết is a joyful festival for our people. But in the South of our country, we may say that there have never been more joyful Tếts than last year's and this year's.

Last spring, our people and armed forces launched general offensives and simultaneous uprisings, stretched the enemy forces thin, and dealt them stunning blows. Never before in history had Tết brought our nation such joy and pride !

Tết is spring festival. Last Tết was also a victory festival for our entire nation. The first days of the Mau Than lunar year brought heavy losses to the enemy and confidence and hope to our friends all over the five continents.

Starting with Tết, the whole Mau Than year has seen an unending succession of resounding victories for our people and armed forces. Each day, each month, has been a festival, as if Spring had become eternal on our land !

Over the past year, the news of victory has come to us from Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Can Tho, Khe Sanh, Quang Tri, Ben Tre, Tay Ninh, Tay Nguyen, Bien Hoa and countless other places. To this have been added the reports of victory in the North. Over the Great Rear of the Fatherland's Bronze Citadel, nearly 3,300 American air pirates — Thunderchiefs, Phantoms, and others — have been shot down, their remains serving as fertilizer for the victory flower garden of our people. These victories have strengthened even more the love and kinship between the two zones, North and South, of our country.

Internationally, friendship and solidarity with our people has also been consolidated. Over a billion brothers in the socialist countries, billions of friends all over the world, including in the United States, have joined forces with us to defeat american aggression.

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editorial

The US must unconditionally withdraw all its expeditionary troops from South Viet Nam

THE delegates of the US Government and the Saigon puppet administration to the Paris Conference are doing their best to distort the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people and the support given the latter out of blood-sealed relations by their compatriots in North Viet Nam. They are endeavouring to made black white in order to conceal the truth about the US aggression and white-wash the puppets' crime of betrayal to their country and people. As if they were really interested in a peaceful solution to the South Viet Nam issue the US delegate had "gone to the point" by proposing discussion on "immediate" questions such as "restoration of the DMZ status," "mutual withdrawal," and so on.

This clearly is a trick of the US to try to mislead public opinion, avoid responsibility, cover up its crimes and evade a correct political solution to the South Viet Nam issue. By demanding the "restoration of the DMZ status," the US, first of all, wants to make it the origin of the present war in South Viet Nam and a vital question for the restoration of peace in this region. The US Government also hopes, with this demand, to evade the fact that it, and nobody else, has trampled underfoot the whole set of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam by sending its expeditionary troops en masse here to massacre the population. The fact, however, is that just while the US delegate speaks tirelessly about the "restoration of the DMZ status," US expeditionary troops are raiding and savagely slaying the people right in the southern part of the DMZ, devastating their villages, fields and gardens, and forcing them into fascist-typed concentration camps.

Therefore, the question is not only that the US must respect the status of the DMZ. It is also that the US must observe the whole set of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, put an end to its war of aggression in South Viet Nam, stop all criminal acts by US expeditionary troops who have come across the Pacific both by air and by sea, and unconditionally withdraw all these troops and the troops of the satellites of the US from this land of South Viet Nam.

As pointed out again and again by Mr Tran Buu Kiem, Head of the delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation at the Paris Conference, it is the aggressive policy and obdurate and bellicose attitude of the US that lie at the bottom of the whole serious situation now in South Viet Nam. Out of its ambition to put the whole world under its hegemony, the US had for long have an eye for that Indo-Chinese peninsula and had paid as many as nearly 80% of the expenditures for the French colonialists' Indo-Chinese war from 1945 to 1954, before actually making an armed intervention in South Viet Nam, and then a direct "special war" and a local war against the South Vietnamese people. From tens of thousands of miles the US has brought its army and weapons to South Viet Nam to make a war of aggression unparalleled in atrociousness. Therefore, there is only one name becoming them the aggressor. Under the "anti-communist" signboard, the over 1.2 million troops of the US, puppets and satellites are daily conducting raids during which they slay the people indiscriminately, whether ages people, women, or children. It is for the defence of the "self — determination" of the South Vietnamese people that B-52 strategic aircraft of the US are "carpet-bombing" heavily populated areas here? The obdurately aggressive and treacherous nature of the US-puppets is even more graphically shown by the bloody repressions in Saigon and many other urban centres here, such as wanton firing at students, and Buddhist and Catholic priests demonstrating for "withdrawal of the US," "overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique," and "establishment of a peace-restoring cabinet" for serious talks with the NFL.

A sheep's skin cannot camouflage a wolf. Nor can the absurd claims of the US white-wash the US crime of aggression. In face of the aggression by the US, the 14 million South Vietnamese, upholding their nation's tradition of struggle against foreign aggression, have united and risen up in one accord to resist the US aggressors and save their country. The objective of their struggle is independence, democracy, peace, neutrality, prosperity and ultimate peaceful reunification of their Fatherland. Such is the earnest desire and iron-clad determination of the people of all walks of life, of all political parties, all religious and social organizations in South Viet Nam. The current resistance in South Viet Nam is a patriotic war waged by the entire South Vietnamese people to liberate South Viet Nam from the colonialist rule of the US and its henchmen, the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique. However hard they may try, the enemy cannot distort the truth, which is that they are rabidly opposing the South Vietnamese people and anyone else who stand for independence, sovereignty, freedom, democracy, peace and neutrality in South Viet Nam. This eloquent truth has shattered the enemy's worn-out «anti-communist» signboard.

For their basic national rights, the South Vietnamese people have fought valiantly and relentlessly against the US aggressors and their lackeys. It is for these same rights that the NFL has issued the November 3, 1968 statement to expound its 5-point stand on a correct political solution to the South Viet Nam issue. This justice-radiating stand of the NFL fully reflects the legitimate aspirations and demands of the South Vietnamese people, and as such, has received the complete sympathy and backing of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces. The South Vietnamese people and public opinion in the world are demanding the US to respect this stand and regard it as a correct basis for the settlement of the South Viet Nam issue.

But, the US delegate at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam still persists in an obdurately aggressive stand, and has not yet adopted a serious attitude. Moreover, he is deliberately creating more obstacles to the Conference.

The essential of the whole problem is this: as the US has started an aggression, it must now put an end to this aggression, and as the US has introduced its expeditionary army into South Viet Nam, it must now—without conditions—withdraw the whole lot of its expeditionary troops and the troops of its vassals from South Viet Nam. The US must not beat on about the bush. It must not shirk its responsibility. There can be no question of withdrawing the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces now resisting US aggression to save their country. There can be no "mutual withdrawal." If the US really wants peace, it but remains for it to put an end to its aggression in South Viet Nam, withdraw all its troops and the troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam, and let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs according to the Political Program of the NFL, and without any foreign interference. This is the only honorable out left to the US Government now.

On the PLAF 8th merging anniversary

THE PLAF, THE HEROIC ARMY OF HEROIC PEOPLE

IN South Viet Nam history is supplying the illustration of a wounderful truth: the People's Liberation Armed Forces, a very young army, have been defeating more than 1,200,000 American, puppet and satellite troops equipped with the latest war means of imperialism.

This heroic army is just eight years old on February 15, 1969.

It is born of the people and has grown up thanks to the affectionate care and protection of the people. From self-defence, guerilla or armed propaganda units at the start, partly or entirely freed from production work, and including in their ranks men and women, old and young fighters, it has rapidly developed and now comprises three categories of armed forces: the regulars, the regionals, and the militia and guerillas. Heir to the national tradition of indomitability, the tradition of revolutionary struggle for the defence and construction of their Fatherland, the PLAF are boundlessly faithful to their people and the revolution. They evince marvellous courage and resourcefulness, constantly holding an offensive position, so that each of their sorties is crowned with success and each of their actions adds a new page to the Vietnamese people's glorious history of resistance to US aggression, for national salvation.

During the past eight years, from the Northern bank of the river Ben Hai down to cape Camau, every plot of land, every river portion, every mountain slope, every village path and town street has conspicuously marked the feats of arms of all the three categories of the PLAF. Together with the Liberation fighters, and side by side with the river Lo and Dien Bien Phu such places as Bac, Van Tuong, An Lao, Loc Ninh, Dac To, Bien Hoa, Hue, Saigon, Da Nang, Highway No 9 and Khe Sanh, have made an unforgettable epic of the exploits of the Vietnamese people and army. In the same period, under the banner of the National Front for Liberation, the PLAF have registered outstanding achievements: they have smashed the US aggressors' "Special war" and are in the process of defeating their "limited war", thus driving them into a passive and defensive posture, bringing the war into their last lairs-the urban centres, turning the tide of the situation, ushering in a new historical stage extremely propitious for us and utterly unfavourable for the enemy, and pushing them to the brink of a complete defeat.

From early 1961 to October 1968, the PLAF:

Wiped out or seriously decimated 9 US and puppet regiments,

Destroyed 4 task forces,

Knocked down or put out of action 3 brigades,

Annihilated or inflicted heavy losses on 364 battalions, including 47 armoured squadrons,

Wiped out or seriously thinned out 1,710 companies,

Shot down or destroyed on the ground 13,000 aircraft of all types,

Destroyed 26,000 military vehicles of different kinds, among which 12,000 tanks and armoured personnel carriers M. 113, that is enough to equip 10 US marine divisions,

Sent to the bottom or set afire 1,100 vessels, combat canoes and military transports,

And razed 4,467 garrisons and posts and military subsectors held by American, puppet or satellite troops.

Steeled in the crucible of the revolution and guided by sound military and political lines, the PLAF have become a strong army in both member and quality, possessed of a high fighting spirit. They have made big strides ahead in the organizational field, in command, combat methods and tactics. Their victories succeeded one another without let up, each marking a step forward in their development. They have acquired more experiences as they fought, and displayed ever more clearly their great capabilities and invincible strength. All the three categories of armed forces have quickly developed and confronted the enemy everywhere, closely coordinating their actions in every theatre of operations and between the various theatres. Together with the people they have devised genuinely vietnamese, very diversified and most effectual combat methods.

The PLAF live among the people and have grown up while fighting. Simple in appearance—a soft brimmed hat, rubber sandals and a variegated shawe round the neck—they are the most cherished sons of the people. They have worn before the NFL national-salvation flag not to recoil from any hardships and difficulties. Searching US and puppet troops to wipe them out over the past eight years, the Liberation fighters, whether they belong to the regular army, the regional troops or the militia or guerilla force, rushed forward as tidal waves to encounter their opponent. In this process their ranks have swollen at the same rate as their victories increased.

Throughout South Viet Nam, the people in the liberated zone just as in the towns and cities still under enemy control are awaiting new victories of the Liberation forces and extend them their warmest greetings on the occasion of their eighth anniversary. The PLAF eighth-year-old long march have not come to a close.

PHUC MINH

The NFL, authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people

(Excerpts from Tran Buu Kiem's statement at the 3rd plenary session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, February 6, 1969)

THE US war of aggression has torn to pieces all the gaudy trappings of "independence", "sovereignty" and "democracy" in which the US-paid Saigon administration has rigged itself out.

South Viet Nam economy is completely dependent upon the US. It is ruined by the US war of aggression and by the savage predatory policies of the US and the Saigon administration. US toxic chemicals, bombs and shells have destroyed hundreds of thousands of hectares of ricefields, orchards, plantations, and forests in South Viet Nam, many large areas planted with mangoosteens and duryans in Lai Thieu, Cu Chi..., many immense coconut-tree plantations in Ben Tre, Binh Dinh, many rubber plantations in eastern Nam Bo have now run waste. Formerly a rice producer annually exporting millions of tons of rice, South Viet Nam has now to import the same quantity of rice each year. A number of regions even suffer from food shortage. National industry and handicraft are jeopardized because of competition and fall into complete stagnation. The Saigon administration boasted that the pre-1960 period was a period of prosperity but, in fact, nearly 10,000 sugar refineries, over 1/3 of the handlooms, and half of the sawmills, had to close down. No industrial branch can develop, except war industries. Inflation becomes more and more serious. Saigon currency is being more and more devaluated. Prices soar up at an amazing speed. The overwhelming majority of the people live in destitution. Under the regime of the so-called "republic of Viet Nam, forcible removal by every possible means, house-burning, youth pressganging, robbery, and corruption are matters of daily occurrence.

In the regions under the control of the US and the Saigon administration, culture and education have been deteriorating day by day. All works of literature and art that are sound, bearing more or less a national character, are interdicted. On the contrary, pornographic magazines, novels and films that praise up gangsters exploits and US-type insane musics are allowed free development. Educational problems are neglected. Schools are very few in number whereas night-clubs, snack-bars and brothels at the service of US troops are in profusion.

On April 18, 1966, radio Hue was led to say bitterly that "The cultural policy of Thieu and Ky, if there is any, is no other than a policy aimed at abolishing all the glorious and heroic traditions of our people".

Concerned about such a situation, many intellectuals, writers, artists, industrialists, pupils' parents and many personalities have set up such organizations as the "Committee for the building of a self supporting economy", the "Association for the defence of women's dignity and interests", the "Forces for the protection of national culture", etc., with a view to preserving to some extent the national values and traditions. But even these organizations have been subjected to repression and banned, and many of their members arrested and jailed.

IN its scheme of continuing the war of aggression and maintaining neo-colonialism, the US has so far persisted in holding on to the Saigon administration, and tried its utmost to embellish it. But, in the eye of the South Viet Nam people and the people the world over, this administration is merely a US-paid administration, traitors to the country.

As an instrument of the US in its "local war", the present Thieu-Ky-Huong administration is extremely bellicose and cruel. Toeing the dictatorial and fascist line of Ngo Dinh Diem, this administration erects "sand execution places" in the very heart of Saigon to murder patriots, it outlaws anyone who favours neutrality and peace, or refuses to side with them. It develops the barbarous repressive and terrorist measures used by Ngo Dinh Diem against religious sects into large-scale operations involving infantry, armoured cars, air force and navy to massacre urban and rural populations, students, buddhists and dissident puppet armymen in the very streets as was the case in Hue and Da Nang in summer of 1966 by issuing decrees on "general mobilization" and on "state of war", this administration strives to stifle the people's rights to life and democratic liberties, feverishly press gang youth and squeeze the wealth out of the people to pour it into the US war of aggression. It overtly declares that "the Geneva Agreements are only scrap papers" (Nguyen Van Thieu's statement on July 20, 1965). The reactionary and blood-thirsty character of the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration was revealed in Nguyen Cao Ky's words: I have only a hero: Hiler. I adore him. We need at least four or five Hitlers".

Saigon public opinion, the american press, and even many people among US ruling circles have unanimously condemned the Saigon administration as a US-paid administration, lackeys of the US, an administration corrupted from top to bottom.

What then does the said administration represent ? It only represents slavery and rottenness!

Any attempt at qualifying the Saigon administration as "legal" "constitutional" is too ridiculous for words.

The 1967 "presidential elections" were a hugdred-percent a fraud. The South Vietnam people in the areas temporarily controlled by the US and the Saigon administration either pays no attention to this farce or opposed or else boycotted it.

Although the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration was compelled to send its representatives to the Paris conference, it has shown itself very bellicose, and has used all sorts of means to sabotage this conference. A Saigon newspaper commented on January 13, 1969: "October 31st 1968 was the darkest day for blood-thirsty men." President Johnson's order to cease the bombardments of the whole territory of North Viet Nam made them tremble with fear, they are frightened because there open before them the prospects of peace, the peace that they fear and hate most on earth.

"Since then, they have day and night prayed for the allmighty's protection so that the word "peace" might not haunt them any more, for the simple reason: war is the source of their existence, it helps them and their families prosper and get a high rank in this rotten society." The Paris conference cannot progress as long as the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration remains. The South Viet Nam people strongly demand the overthrow of this administration and the establishment of a peace-restoring cabinet in Saigon that will conduct serious talks with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation so as to put an end to the US war of aggression and to bring peace, independence and neutrality to South Viet Nam.

THE South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation was born of the patriotic movement of the South Viet Nam people. It came into existence in South Viet Nam and grown up in the course of the struggle there. Its leaders and members all come from the South Viet Nam people and belong to various social strata, nationalities, religions, and political tendencies. They are peasants, workers, intellectuals, pupils, students, businessmen, landowners, etc. The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has had correct political lines embodied in its political programme that respond to the aspirations and interests of the South Viet Nam people. The Front advocates the following: to unite the entire people, resolutely defeat the US imperialists' war of aggression, overthrow the US—paid puppet administration, set up a broad democratic and national union administration, build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral, and prosperous South Viet Nam, and advance toward the peaceful reunification of the fatherland. Not only has the Front a correct policy for the struggle against US aggression, it has also laid down in its political programme concrete policies for the construction of South Viet Nam; to set up a regime of broad and progressive democracy, to built an independent and self-supporting economy, to improve the people's living conditions, to implement the land policy, to carry out the slogan "land to the tillers", to build a national and democratic culture and education, to develop science and technology, to promote public health, to safeguard the interests of factory, office workers and civil servants, to build powerful South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces with a view to liberating the people and defending the fatherland, to show gratitude to war martyrs, to take care of disabled armymen, to reward armymen and civilians who have distinguished themselves in the fight against US aggression, for national salvation, to organize social relief, to carry out equality between man and woman, to protect mothers and children, to strengthen unity and practice equality and mutual assistance among nationalities, to respect freedom of creed, to achieve unity and equality among the different religious communities, to welcome puppet officers and soldiers and puppet officials who come back to the just cause, to show leniency and give human treatment to rallied armymen and prisoners-of-war, to protect the interests of overseas Vietnamese, to protect the legitimate rights and interests of foreign residents in South Viet Nam. The Front advocates the re-esblishment of normal relations between North and South Viet Nam, the advance toward the peaceful reunification of the country, and a foreign policy of peace and neutrality.

These concrete policies have been and are being implemented step by step, in the large liberated areas of South Viet Nam. The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has distributed over two million hectares of land to the peasants, organized and guided them in promoting agricultural production, helped develop handicraft and trade, and stepped up public health, social, educational, cultural and artistic activities. In the conditions of the war, despite the destructions caused by US bombs and shells, and though keeping up their action for countering US sweeps, the people in the liberated areas, under the leadership and with the help of the NFL, have built thousands of schools, sanitary stations, maternity-hospitals and have developed people's art groups. The Front looks after the people's cultural and material life. In the liberated areas, no oppression, no corruption, no robbery, no hooliganism exist any more, contrary to what happens in the regions Front's earily controlled by the US and its lackeys.

The overwhelming majority of the South Viet Nam population have unreservedly supported the Front, giving their moral, intellectual, and material contribution to the fight against US aggression, for national salvation, under the Front's leadership and organization. Owing to this support, the People's Liberation Armed Forces have rapidly grown in strength and size, they are present everywhere, they have defeated and are defeating the enemy in its very lair. The political forces of the Front have also ceaselessly developed rallying in their ranks millions of people. United with the Alliance of National, Democratic, and Peace Forces of Viet Nam, and other patriotic forces, the Front is bringing into full play its victories to fight against the US aggressors and their lackeys till final victory...

The urban people warmly welcome the PLAF attacking enemy's positions. *Photo : GPA*

Têt in trenches

THE dial of my wrist-watch glimmered in the pitch-dark night both luminous hands pointed to 12.

It was New Year's Eve.

A combatant, relieving guard in a trench, gave the password to his comrade and exchanged wishes with him. The enemy were there, before them. From behind a grove of century-old trees, flares flashed into darkness. Planes were roving in the sky, helicopters thundered, jets screamed at full power, and a reconnaissance plane droned wearily. This kind of music had no end.

That year, the fighters of unit X. welcomed the arrival of Spring in their combat ditches. It was not without regret that, a few days before some of them had learnt news of the NFL's Têt truce. "We've started successful offensives, why stop fighting," they said. But, aware of the meaning of the truce, the whole unit were determined to carry it out seriously and to stand ready to fight back the enemy should they break it.

The men had not relayed their vigilance while preparing for the traditional festival.

Plump pigs and fat oxen awaited to be turned into delicious dishes. Cotton-white sticky rice brought by the population under bombs and shells had lay in big baskets, ready to become traditional Tet cakes. Banderoles had been hung up and triumphal arches erected to welcome local NFL delegates.

Meanwhile, weapons had been carefully furbished and trenches and other defence works minutely checked.

Came New Year's Day.

Around the trenches, trees charred or cut to pieces afforded no more shade. In the thunder of enemy planes, the men spoke of Tet memories about their native villages.

By a DKZ recoilless gun, Nhan told his young comrades how people used to celebrate Tet in North Viet Nam. Born there he had gone to the South as early as 1943. He had experienced the miserable life of a worker in the Dau Tieng rubber plantation and the enthusiastic days of fighting in the South during the resistance war against the French colonialists. In every ditch stories followed stories...

At noon, the sun beat down in a dazzh. The trenches kept ringing with words and songs. All of a sudden, the observation post reported that a group of armoured personnel cars were driving to ward the Liberation troops. The merry-making abruptly ended. Burning with hatred the combatants rushed back to their positions, ready for action.

The APCs were 400, 300, then 200 metres away...

They were still too far! Then they drew nearer, some 50 metres from battery 3. Our gunners did not stir, determined to observe their traditional rule: "Every shot should knock down a vehicle".

An enemy heavy machine-gun spat fire, showering sand and dust over the tranches.

Red-faced GI's standing in their cars looked round fearfully. The leading vehicle was now no more than 10 metres from battery 3. The DKZ suddenly thundered, wrapping it in fire and smoke. The following ones wavered then opened fire while moving backwards and furally fled.

As the APCs had withdrawn, enemy artillery and air force intervened furiously. But battery 3 held out, indomitable under the lethal rain.

The battle lasted from noon to dusk. Some more enemy vehicles was set afire on the highway.

Unit X. recorded a new exploit. Its combatants had celebrated the traditional spring Festival with guns instead of crackers, and feats of valour instead of flowers.

LONG AN

Correspondent of the review Quan Giai Phong (Liberation troops).

In our liberated zones

QUANG NAM: 1968 BALANCE-SHEET

After a year of general offensives and uprisings the Quang Nam provincial leadership held a Congress last December to review the feats of its armymen.

Among the delegates were 98 emulation fighters. The Congress heard and discussed 20 typical reports. X. village (Tam Ky district) indomitable in the enemy's rear, B. village (Thang Binh district) remarkable for the participation of its entire population in the resistance, T. village (Tien Phuoc district) reputed for its leap forward in political struggle and its contribution to serve the front,.. all of them have been commended.

The Congress was moved by the report of Mrs X, a 65-year-old widow in Thang Binh district who, by dint of courage and initiative had saved 30 cadres and youngsters in a raid and given care to 35 wounded people though having to look after her five children.

SOUTH VIET NAM PEASANTRY COMMENDED

The Presidium of the NFL Central Committee has just awarded a first class Liberation to the Peasants' Association for Liberation for its great contribution to the resistance.

The Association has guided its members to stick to their land, improve their farming methods and defend their crops. Moreover, it has helped them raise their living standard, supply material and human resources to the revolution, promote mutual aid in agricultural work, and village defence against enemy raids and attempts to concentrate the population.

SECOND CLASS OF DOCTORS ENDED

On December 29, 1968, the second class of doctors trained by the complementary school of Medecine and Pharmacy attached to the South Viet Nam Public Health commission held a graduation ceremony after a set of courses

and a term of probation at the school, field ambulances and hospitals.

On behalf of the Commission, Dr. Traa Van Chin, head of the school, praised the zeal of the students in learning and serving wounded and diseased troops at the front. While on probation, he said, the students had successfully treated 2,000 patients affected by war accidents and other serious diseases. Speaking on behalf of the graduates, Dinh Van Nam of the nationality in southernmost Trung Bo, pledged to devotedly attend wounded armymen and people wherever they would be appointed to work.

ARTISTIC ENSEMBLES IN CENTRAL NAM BO DRAW 700,000 SPECTATORS

Last year, overcoming difficulties, over provincial and district 20 artistic ensembles in Central Nam Bo performed at the front line, thus serving the fighting with their revolutionary songs.

According to still incomplete figures, during the last eight months of 1968, they staged 4,233 performances before 700,000 spectators.

Ben Tre shock art troupes were constantly present in the vicinity of the provincial capital. My Tho art troupe stuck to Road N° 4 and continually performed before the population of Cho Gao and Chau Thanh areas.

Kien Phong shock art troupe regularly operated north and south of Cao Lanh, Kien Tuong art troupe penetrated deep into Chau Thanh and Tan An areas to serve the population. An Giang shock art troupe stuck to the areas inhabited by national minorities and a large number of religious followers to entertain them.

Wherever they worked, the troupes stimulated the movement for offensive and uprising, fighting and production and called on the puppet armymen to return to the revolution.

Ben Tre artistic ensemble held 57 performances before 32,870 attendants, while those of Giong Trom, Chau Thanh, Thanh Phu, Ba Tri and Binh Dai 757 with 300,000 spectators.

The artistic ensemble of the Khmer-born Vietnamese (An Giang) devised many dances based on their peculiar tradition, which instilled greater confidence in the revolution and the abilities of their nationality.

Political struggle — *Armed struggle* — *Agitation among the puppet troops* — *Great victories*

Painting by LE HONG HAI

Using US bombs to blow up US vehicles

THE guerilla squad of X. village, Thua Thien province, after splitting into two groups, headed for the La Nganh post, where an artillery regiment of the First Air Cav. was stationed. Six of the men were carrying, suspended to three shoulder poles, an aerial bomb which the Americans had dropped on Phong Son but which had failed to explode, and had been turned into a gigantic mine. Three men under the command of Comrade C. formed a recon unit, which dashed forward and crawled into the post. The bomb carriers followed in their steps, wading through knee-deep mud. It was pitch dark. The entire squad penetrated through a barbed wire fence about fifty metres from a barrack. They dug a hole near a garbage heap, put the mine in it, carefully camouflaged the whole thing, and silently withdrew.

At 7 the following morning, three trucks loaded with GIs drove out from the post. The first one was blown to bits: 15 men were killed and their remains strewn over the courtyard and the fence. Thunderstruck, the American command ordered six gunships to strafe a one-kilometre fringe around the post for one hour at a stretch, and artillery to shell all suspect areas. All this, of course, to no avail.

The guerilla squad of X. village, meanwhile, was getting ready for new action.

M.P.

Standing firm to the end

FIGHTING broke out before dawn. Enemy bombs and shells were rained on D.T. hill. The red earth was dug up, like a live body being flayed. For three hours, assault upon assault was launched, but all were driven back by the PLAF squad under the command of Dang Tien Huy.

10 in the morning. The sun was beating down hard. In the lull between two artillery shellings, Huy discussed the situation with his comrades and sought to see through the schemes of the enemy.

"Never mind their schemes," said a fighter. "Let's keep our guns in good condition and give them hell when they come!"

The men were all in very high spirits, and Huy was sure they would not yield an inch of ground. Yet, there remained only five able-bodied men, four of whom were slightly wounded.

"Your wound seems to be fairly serious," Huy told one of the more gravely injured men. "Go into the shelter and take a rest."

"Don't worry about us, the wounded," his comrade replied with a firm voice. "We'll fight to our very last breath. We'll give the Yanks hell. When we are too weak to hold a gun, we'll pass ammunition to you. We won't let ourselves be carried to the rear!"

All the others voiced vigorous approval.

Huy made a quick inspection tour, checking up on fieldworks and equipment.

The enemy had by now recovered from the last beating. They launched a new multi-pronged assault. Their troops came gradually within range: twenty... ten,... five metres. But Huy's tommy-gun remained silent. A man whispered to him, "How about opening fire?"

With the first enemy soldiers barely three metres away, Huy's gun crashed. His comrades followed up with angry bursts of submachine-gun and volleys of grenades. It was a complete surprise for the Yanks, who hastily showed a clean pair of heels leaving their dead behind. All later attempts were beaten back.

In the afternoon, choppers came to pick up the bodies of dead GIs. One of them, a HU IA. was downed by Huy's squad.

When the day ended, the Americans had failed to capture D.T. hill in spite of their furious assaults. The Dang Tien Huy squad had stood firm to the end. For his part, Huy had killed dozens of aggressors, and contributed to the downing of a helicopter.

THUY KHANH

Chop off the head!

The glare of an enemy parachute flare lit up the muddy road. Squad leader Pham Van Ky and his comrades calmly went on with their combat preparations: digging positions for an ambush. So far, Ky had participated in ten battles along Highway N°9, but this was the first time he was given the task of "chopping off the head" of an enemy military convoy. While digging the rocky earth, he discussed the plan of operation with his comrades. They were all older than their commander, but held him in high respect for his courage and intelligence. Besides his duty as a squad commander, Ky was also in charge of an anti-tank bazooka, the bazookist having fallen seriously ill just before they started out for the battlefield.

It had rained all night, but the morning was bright and clear. At an intermediary combat position, not far from the highway, Pham Van Ky's squad was waiting for H hour. Only at two in the afternoon did an enemy convoy turn up, with tanks in the lead.

The order was given to attack it. Ky jumped out of his foxhole. "Follow me!" he shouted. The entire squad darted forward like arrows, crossed a muddy patch of field and rushed onto the road in spite of a hail of fire from gunships hovering overhead.

It was a dramatic race: the convoy made desperate efforts to escape, but to no avail. One, then two minutes passed. American engines had lost the race to the sturdy legs of the PLAF men. The entire convoy was hemmed in on all sides A tempest of fire swooped down on it.

Two bazooka shots fired by Ky and Tham set two tanks ablaze. The third one was hit by machinegun fire from Vinh and stopped dead, its cab turned into a sieve! The whole convoy could no longer move. Ky ordered Tham to destroy the fourth vehicle, while Vinh and Sinh gave support fire. He himself rushed forward toward an armoured car with a radio aerial sticking out: his second bazooka shell blew it up.

The enemy convoy was now writhing in agony. Twenty-five vehicles had been destroyed. Ky's squad alone had chopped off the convoy's head, blowing up five engines.

L.T.

Saigon uprising *by LE LAM*

THE AGGRESSION BY THE US IS PERFECTLY PLAIN

(Excerpts from Tran Buu Kiem's, statement at the 2nd plenary session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam — January 30, 1969)

LONG before, as soon as world war two was over, in their schemes to dominate the world, the ruling circles in the US sought to place Viet Nam as well as the whole of Indo-China within the sphere of expansion of US influence. They cherished the idea of conquering Indo-China, of which Viet Nam is a part, because not only does Indo-China occupy a very important strategic position in Southeast Asia and in the far East, but it also possesses reserves of strategic raw materials. It is precisely to materialize these ambitions that the US has intervened more and more in Viet Nam.

Already from 1950 onwards, the US directly intervened in the Indo-China war (1945-1954), defraying 78.25 per cent of the war expenditures, and taking part in working out and implementing many important military plans.

On January 13, 1954, US state secretary John Foster Dulles stated: "US interests in the far East, from a strategic point of view, are closely connected with what is usually called the "chain of coastal islands". "This chain comprises two continental bases: Korea in the North and, if possible, Indo-China in the South, Lying between these two bases are the Japanese Islands: Ryu-Kyu and Okinawa, Formosa, the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand".

Having failed to prevent the signing of the 1954 Geneva agreements, international agreements recognizing the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam —, on July 21, 1954, US president Eisenhower declared that the US "was not bound by the said agreements". One month and a half later, the US induced some of its allies and satellites to set up the South East Asia military bloc for aggression, placing South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos under the "protection" of this bloc with the aim, in Dulles own words, of "giving the US president right to intervene in Indo-China, "the above-mentioned statement by Eisenhower as well as the setting up of the South East Asia military bloc for aggression have opened the way for the US to carry out a policy of direct aggression against South Viet Nam.

From 1954 to 1960, this policy of aggression was perfidiously camouflaged under the form of neo-colonialism, it was carried out thought the US-paid administration and army, and by means of military and economic aids.

The US brought Ngo Dinh-Diem, a lackey that for many long years it had nurtured and trained, back to Saigon to set up a puppet administration and to speedily turn South Viet Nam not only into a separate state but also into a kind of member state of the US, extending the borders of the US to the 17th parallel" as Ngo Dinh Diem himself put it. In October 1955, after having staged the "referendum" farce to dismiss Bao Dai and after having proclaimed himself "president of the republic of Viet Nam, Ngo Dinh Diem, by US order, sent a note to the British Government, declaring that the Geneva agreements were null and void, and opposing the holding of general elections for the reunification of Viet Nam scheduled for July 1956. At the same time, he ceaselessly clamoured for "filling up the Ben Hai river" and for a "march on the North" so as to materialize the US design of conquering the whole of Viet Nam.

Along with the setting up of a puppet administration, the US recruited a mercenary army in South Viet Nam.

To equip this army, the US illegally brought into South Viet Nam, between 1954 and 1960, nearly 800 shiploads of war materials, 250 military aircraft, 85 warships, over 8,000 tanks and military vehicles, hundreds of thousands of tons of arms, ammunitions and other military equipments. The US set up a network of over 3.000 American advisers to take the command of that army. Already by 1960, the US has established in South Viet Nam 60 military airfields, six of which are for heavy jets, 11 military harbours, and a network of strategic communication lines, thus turning South Viet Nam into a huge US military base for an attack against North Viet Nam

Obeying US order, the puppet administration and the mercenary army have carried out a savage repression against all sections of the population. They labelled all patriotic and peace loving people "communists" and mercilessly persecuted. They staged brutal campaigns of alleged "denouncing of communists", launched bloody sweep operations, took their guillotines from place to place everywhere in the countryside as well as in the cities, proceeded to executions without trials, jailed tens of thousands of people, and detained hundreds of thousands of others in concentration camps disguised under the label of "prosperity zone s" or "agricultural colonies". They trampled underfoot all democratic liberties, muffled the press, repressed intellectuals and jurists. They refused the freedom of creed, persecuting Buddhists and Caodaists to such an extent that many Buddhist priests and believers had to resort to self-immolation by way of protest.

The crimes accumulated by the US and their lackeys have aroused deep hatred among the entire people of South Viet Nam who then resolutely put up a political and armed struggle against them. Such is the immediate cause of the movement of mass-uprising throught South Viet Nam in 1959-1969, a movement that shook the US-paid regime to its foundations, and led to the founding of the South Viet Nam NFL on December 20, 1960.

Thus US neo-colonialism was unmasked and foiled, and the pseudo-nationalism banner of the US lackeys torn to pieces. *Panic-stricken at the patriotic struggle of the South Viet Nam people which was now as strong as surging billows breaking all dykes. From 1961, the US launched a "special war" which was part of the US global strategy.* To directly take in hand the conduct of this war, in early 1962 the US set up in Saigon a military command called American military aid command" (MAC) leaded by general Paul Harkins. Within a few years, the number of US "military advisers" increased from 3.000 to over 23,000, these "military advisers" were placed in all units of the Saigon army, from division down to company level to command them. In 1962 alone, over 30 US military missions were sent to Saigon. And on June 23, 1964 general Taylor, chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, was appointed ambassador in Saigon to supreme-command South Viet Nam both politically and militarily.

Having failed in the special war, in mid- 1965, the US had to shift to the strategy of a "local war". Fabricating the myth of "North Viet Nam's aggression against South Viet Nam", and under the pretext of its so-called "commitments" to the puppet administration, the US massively brought expeditionary troops into South Viet Nam to directly make war against the South Viet Nam people. At the present moment these troops number nearly 540.000 men (over 10 divisions). Morever, about 60,000 troops come from US satellite countries. The US also built up or expanded military bases in South Viet Nam. It used its 7th fleet and other US military bases in countries neighbouring Viet Nam such as Laos, ThaiLand, the Philippines, Japan... to launch attacks against South Viet Nam: 75 per cent of the US ground forces, 60 per cent of the US air forces, 90 per cent of the US air transport forces, and 60 per cent of the US naval forces have directly or indirectly participated in the Viet Nam war, the US has resorted to most disastrous means of war, including poisonous chemicals, toxic gases, and B-52 strategic bombers.

Along with its "local war" in South Viet Nam, the US has waged a war of destruction with its air force, navy and artillery against the DRVN, an independent and sovereign country.

The US war of aggression is so brutal and so impudent that many people, even among US ruling circles, have to admit it,

In March 1966, US senator W. Morse said: "In fact, we are the aggressors" (AP, March 4, 1966). Senator Fulbright also said: "The US foreign policy is a brutal and bellicose one". On August 21, 1968, on behalf of the lawyers, committee on American policy towards Viet Nam, Mr. Joseph Crowl said that from the point of view of international law, "the US committed the crime of aggression against Viet Nam" and considered this "the most catastrophic mistake ever made in American history".

Nobody can justify the US aggression in Viet Nam. Millions of people in the world, through their powerful struggle under a great variety of forms, have raised their voice to condemn this aggression. The movement against the US war of aggression has increasingly developed in the US and manifested itself on the very day when president Nixon took office.

Since the US are the aggressors against our country, those whom they use as lackeys must be labelled traitors, and those who fight against US aggression are patriots. No other words can possibly be used.

In an attempt to conceal their true nature, the lackeys of the US often pretend to be "authentic nationalists", proclaim that the Saigon administration is "legal", "constitutional" etc. But the very origin of this administration, its reactionary dictatorial, fascist and utterly corrupt nature have themselves rejected these allegations.

The Saigon administration is a product of the US neo-colonialist policy of aggression. As early as 1956, late president John F. Kennedy then senator, said: " If we are not the parents of young Viet Nam, we are surely its foster-parents. We have presided over its birth, helped it or affirm its existence and contributed to the shaping of its future"...

The present Thieu-Ky-Huong administration is an instrument of the US in the latters "local war". This administration has invited over half a million US troops to trample underfoot the soil of the fatherland. By US order, this administration uses repression against all sections of the population, the most of the urban population in summer 1966 and in early 1968. It has jailed all those who do not side with Thieu-Ky-Huong, or forced them to live in exile abroad. It is the only administration to justify US aggression whereas the whole world condemns it. It serves as a prop for the US on the battlefield and even at the conference table. It has laid bare its bellicose nature when it revealed its desire to prolong the US war of aggression and when it opposed the search for a just political solution to the Viet Nam problem. It has slandered the South Viet Nam NFL who is the authentic representative of the South Viet Nam people's interests and honour, the staunch leader of the South Viet Nam people in their struggle against the US imperialists and their lackeys, for national independence, and who has always shown leniency towards those misled people who have come back to the just path. The population of Saigon and of other cities, as well as the population of South Viet Nam as a whole are intensifying their struggle for the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration. Never have the South Viet Nam people recognized the so-called "legal" and "constitutional" character of this Saigon administration. World opinion also condemns it...

The aggression by the US is perfectly plain, the nature of the Saigon administration as puppets and lackeys is more obvious still, those who persist in justifying the US crime of aggression and the US lackeys crime of betraying the country and in slandering the just struggle of the South Viet Nam people and the wholehearted help given them by the 17 million of their compatriots in the North— those people seriously offend the national feelings of the Vietnamese people and the conscience of mankind in general.

LIGHTNING THAT HERALDS A STORM

SINCE November 1, 1968, such leitmotivs as "re-establishment of peace" and "Serious talks with the NFL" have been on everybody's lips.

From November 2 on ward Radio Giai Phong and The voice of Viet Nam — once under taboo — have been listened to by officers, soldiers, policemen and civil servants of all grades. "Under the present circumstances, it is necessary to tune in to Radio Giai Phong to know what is going on", they have argued.

On November 2, three big NFL flags fluttered over the 5th quarter. No policeman thought of taking them down. Policemen, security agents, officers and soldiers looked for leaflet of the NFL and of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, not to prevent the public from reading them but to read them for themselves. Said a major: "The NFL is bound to win. The best thing to do is to join the Alliance".

In five Saigon offices, civil servants ask one another:

"Do you know the five points?" (1)

"Of course, marvellous!

In early November, officers and functionaries in Huê talked all day long about the latest news, looking forward to peace. They rejoiced to hear that Madame Nguyen Thi Binh was appointed NFL delegate at the Paris talks.

On December 4, defying law 10/68, 10.000 people in Can Tho demonstrated to demand an end to the war and quick restoration of peace. They openly supported the will of peace of the NFL.

On December 1, Saigonese Buddhist believers began a peace pilgrimage through My Tho, Vinh Long and Sa Dec provinces. On January 25, Buddha's Enlightenment Day, over 10,000 people walked in procession through Saigon praying for peace.

Worthy of note was the demonstration of young people on Christmas Eve in Saigon. Thousands of students and pupils, backed by professors, intellectuals, religious followers, met that night to express their aspirations for peace and their sorrow for the misfortunes of the country ravaged by the American aggressors and their henchemen Thieu-Ky-Huong. In this seething atmosphere, a student declared, "We've a burning thirst for peace. Can we put up with laments? No! We must act. Let's take to the streets and demonstrate".

In the light of torches, the demonstrators marched forward, chanting:

— **Down with the war of aggression!**

— **Long live peace in Viet Nam!**

— **Immediate end to the war!**

Armymen and policemen on duty looked at the procession with sympathy. Things sent by the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique fired at the demonstrators who were dispersed by force. But it was clear to everybody, even to the Americans and their henchmen, that the Christmas Eve rally was a flash of lightning heralding a storm. Far from being suppressed, the movement has developed in scale and in depth.

Q.T.

(1) *The 5 points of the NFL policy concerning the Political Solution of the South Vietnamese problem.*

Destroying communication lines to prevent the enemy troops' sweep operations
by THAI HA

CAMBODIA ISSUES STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF VIET NAM

HEAD of State Norodom Sihanouk and the Royal Government of Cambodia on February 1st issued a statement fully supporting the stand of the DRVN Government and that of the South Viet Nam NFL at the current four-party Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

The statement reads:

"Now that the quadripartite Paris Conference on Viet Nam has just opened, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State, and the Royal Government of Cambodia, express the hope of the Khmer people for a happy outcome of the negotiations under way. For the honour of humanity it is important that an end be put as quickly as possible to the sufferings imposed on the Vietnamese people from outside and to the menace which is weighing on all the peoples of South-East Asia.

True to her policy of complete independence, Cambodia holds that the re-establishment of peace can be achieved only by the unconditional evacuation of the American troops from South Viet Nam and the recognition of the sacred rights of the Vietnamese people to settle their own affairs without foreign intervention or interference. Consequently, all the manoeuvres aimed at perpetuating the military occupation by the United States and imposing on the South Vietnamese people an unrepresentative regime must be condemned and denounced as contrary to the intentions officially proclaimed by the American government.

The Head of State and the Royal Government of Cambodia renew their total support for the just and legitimate stand of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam at the Paris Conference. The reasonable propositions advanced by the authentic representatives of the Vietnamese people as a whole appear to be the only ones likely to bring an honourable solution to the war in Viet Nam. Cambodia, therefore, wishes that the new American administration take a wise and realistic attitude by accepting these propositions which are supported by all justice upholding countries.

It would be tragic for the future of the world if the United States should dash the hopes kindled by the opening of the Paris negotiations and play into the hands of those in Saigon whose aim is only to prolong a war conducted in their interests against their own people. For their part, the Khmer people consider that if it sincerely so desires, the American government can put an end to the conflict by recognizing without ambiguity the sovereignty and unity of Viet Nam, that is to say by complying with the legitimate demands of its Vietnamese interlocutors."

Suspension of military attacks during lunar new year festival

The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation on January 28 issued a statement on its decision to suspend military attacks against the puppet, US and satellite troops on the occasion of the "Tet" (Lunar New Year Festival).

The statement said that the order will be effective as from 6 a.m. Indo-China time (or 7 a.m. Saigon time) February 15, 1969 to 6 a.m. Indo-China time (or 7 a.m. Saigon time) February 22, 1969.

The statement called on the entire population and the People's Liberation Armed Forces, the NFL Committees and the revolutionary administrative committees at all levels to observe scrupulously the above order and at the same time constantly heighten their vigilance, lay bare all enemy distortions of the meaning of the Front's order, stand ready to shatter all schemes and acts of sabotage and provocation of the US imperialists and their puppets or their attempts to take advantage of the Front's order. It also called on them to create all facilities for the soldiers and personnel of the Saigon puppet administration to return to their families and enjoy the "Tet" and let the American and satellite troops have opportunities to celebrate the new Spring together with the South Viet Nam people.

Also on January 28, the Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces issued an order instructing the PLAF throughout South Viet Nam comprising the main forces, the regional army and the militia and guerilla to suspend their military attacks on the period covered by the NFL decision.

The order said:

"All the PLAF have the duty to protect the people and assist them in celebrating the New Year Festival.

Those troops and personnel of the puppet administration who obey the order of the Front and want to go out of their bases or to the liberated areas to rejoin their families or to visit their forebears' tombs in the said period, on condition that they go in small groups, not in full unit and do not carry either weapons or spying means will be helped and provided with all facilities by the PLAF to enjoy the Spring Festival.

Those puppet, US or satellite units which, in execution of the US aggressors and the puppet army commanders' order, obstinately carry out looting or terrorism against the people on these days will be duly punished.

During the period covered by the NFL order on the suspension of military attacks, all mopping-up raids including actions of aircraft, artillery and warships and reconnaissance flights of US and puppet aircraft in any part of South Viet Nam will be regarded as punishable violations of the NFL order.

"The PLAF must always heighten their vigilance, stand ready together with the people to resolutery punish the reactionary and cruel agents who violate the stipulations of this order and sabotage the normal life and the festive activities of the people in order to ensure strict implementation of the NFL order on the suspension of military attacks," the order added.

The American people's struggle against US aggressive war will win

In the nearly two hundred years of its history never has the United States known such a widespread and vigorous movement as the one put up by the american people against their government's war of aggression in Viet Nam. During 1968 demonstrations, meetings and struggles under many other forms occured in all states and large cities.

These unfolded under slogans demanding that the US end the bombing of the DRVN and the war against South Viet Nam, withdraw its troops from here, recognize the NFL and let the Vietnamese settle themselves their own affairs. "We won't go" has become the watchword of everyday's struggle among university and high school students having reached call-up age. The Liberation Front's red-blue flag with a golden star made its appearance more and more frequently in the gatherings.

Last year the movement was marked by series of stirring demonstrations and meetings in Washington, New York, Chicago and many other cities on the National Day to protest the war of aggression in Viet Nam (April 27). In New York over a hundred thousand people of different strata, ages and colours, representing 150 trade union, student and religious communities took out into the streets.

At the time the Democratic and Republican Parties held their respective congresses to choose a presidential candidate, the american people boosted their anti-war drive. More than 12,000 youths from all parts of the US marched to Chicago, chanting "Ho Chi Minh", "We won't go", "The NFL will win", etc... On election day, Nov. 5, thousands of young men and women and students burned US flags or returned their election cards in protest of the war. Apart from anti-war activities undertaken in coordination with other circles, american women mounted struggles of their own. Most typical of all was the Jan. 15, 1968 March of 5.000 of them in mourning clothes from various parts of the country to Washington, demanding an end to the war.

But last year's movement owed its striking feature to the ever-wider participation of US troops. Mutinies, collective desertions and demonstrations assumed a larger size and more acuteness. The 10,000-strong gathering in San Francisco, October 12, held by GI and Vet March Organizing Committee, included about a thousand GIs in uniform or plain clothes, many having left their barracks to attend. Their slogans: End the war of aggression in Viet Nam, Bring the GIs home now. High-ranking officers were seen in those momentous drives. Retired brigadier general Acnottwo unequivocally stated that "the US war in Viet Nam is illegal and immoral", and that "the aggressor in Viet Nam is the US administration".

The anti-war mood spread to units of the 18th mechanized Infantry Division stationed at Fort Louis, Washington. An antimilitarist committee was set up right in this division to provide assistance to young men refusing to enlist for Viet Nam. Over 100 GIs left the division in protest of the war. Thus far the number of defectors to the same end has reached the 10.000-mark, among them many have taken refuge in Sweden, Canada, France, etc... In these countries they acted in close coordination and published newspapers to impel the protest drive in the US armed forces.

Other forms of struggle have been used, such as: US troops national convention, distribution of leaflets advising the GIs to protest the war, National GI Week, Support Viet Nam Day and so forth.

Simultaneously, the youth, students', intellectuals' and businessmen's movement has also gained added strength. As from end of April 1968, University students held tens of demonstrations with thousands taking part. Worthy of note was that of May 17 when many set afire their draft-cards in token of their solidarity with Viet Nam, and the Hemispheric Conference in Montreal in the course of which a similar action was undertaken by 100 young Americans. The words of Dr Spock terming the US aggressive war in Viet Nam as illegal, immoral, scornful and brutal, have wrought a strong impact on young intellectuals and the people of the US.

Thus the movement against the aggressive war in Viet Nam has registered marked progress. It has involved more and more people from different social strata by coordinating its efforts to this end with activities for better living standard, democracy and racial equality. It has earned sympathy, support and concerted been in a position to make a worthy contribution to frustrate the aggressive war of the US government and to force it into ending the bombing of North Viet Nam, and entering into talks with the South Viet Nam NFL's and DRVN government's representatives in Paris.

The policy of aggression of the US warlike capitalist "complex" has smeared the reputation of the american nation, caused sufferings and mourning to scores of thousands of american families and has become a major evil for the labouring people of the United States It is at the bottom of today's widespread and bitter struggle of the american people.

Despite many difficulties and drawbacks ahead, coming drives will surely increase in momentum and, together with the fight of our people and freedom, peace-and justice-loving people around the world, compel the US administration to end its dirty war in Viet Nam.

Confident of the complete victory of our and the american people, we sincerely thank the latter and wish them greater successes in their just struggle. Shoulder to shoulder the South Vietnamese and American peoples will win gloriously in their undertaking against the common enemy-US aggressor imperialism.

ANH TUAN

Let more victories...

(Continued from page 1)

Hurrah to you, Liberation armyman on the front who has won back spring for the nation through your efforts and sacrifices! On the occasion of Tết this year, all your compatriots hail your 8th birthday and your victories, which have no precedent in national history. Welcoming the arrival of spring, they reserve for you the most beautiful apricot and peach blossoms. With the New Year, your age increases only notch, but your victories will multiply tenfold!

Hurrah to you, guerilla girl in the "belt for the annihilation of Yanks", to you mother marching in the van of the long-haired army, to you volunteer supply carrier crossing the Truong Son range, to you young courier whose little boat is gliding on the waves of the Mekong river... Together with the Liberation Armyman, you have brought to Tết, our people's traditional festival, joyful thoughts and beautiful feelings.

Hurrah to the kith-and-kin North, the Great Rear of the Fatherland's Bronze Citadel!

Hurrah to our friends all over the five continents, who have given us a hand in adding even more fragrance and colour to the spring garden of Viet Nam!

THE american aggressors are suffering heavy failures. They have got off the ladder of the war of destruction against the North. They have been forced to come to Paris and sit at a round conference table for serious talks with representatives of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and those of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

However, they still want to keep the shadows of colonialism over our land, they still want to turn merry and beautiful spring into a season of mourning. They still hope to burn down our spring garden with napalm, and pollute our spring sky with toxic chemicals. They still long to replace the joyful sounds of spring crackers with the explosions of bombs dropped from B.52s, and to substitute steel, fire and blood for the blossoms of spring. But they merely succeed in fanning up the flames of hatred in the hearts of our people.

The echoes of our assault guns in the Tết of Mau Than still resound. The Tết of Ky Dau is fragrant with the perfume of victory. Our common joy before the beauty of spring urges every one of us — fighter, supply carrier, each man and woman in the front or the rear — to redouble our efforts so that more victories may blossom in the spring garden of the fatherland. Beaming with exultation, the new spring is calling on us to work selflessly for great victories at the front.

Imbued with the spring spirit of the nation and developing the tradition of the Mậu Thân Tết, let the fourteen million people and fighters of the South rush forward wave after wave to win more victory flowers for the spring of the fatherland. The spring of the year Ky Dau is calling to us. One Ky Dau ago, Quang Trung's glorious feats of arms had made spring even more gorgeous for our people. This Ky Dau year, for the sake of independence and freedom, for the sake of our nation's spring, under the glorious banner of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, let all of us follow the call by our national leader Ho Chi Minh:

Forward! Fighters and compatriots!

North and South reunited: could there be a happier spring!

SOUTH VIET NAM
IN STRUGGLE

Bob Wilherson (left) *who served in the US Air Force in South Viet Nam for one year, lead a march to free imprisoned leaders of the anti-war movement on the University of Wisconsin Campus*

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

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